

**Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2019**  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**University System of Maryland – Columbus Center**  
**701 East Pratt Street, Multi-Purpose Room**  
**Baltimore, MD 21202**

The Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority (“MEIFA” or the “Authority”) convened a meeting at 1:02 p.m. on June 27, 2019, at the University System of Maryland – Columbus Center, 701 East Pratt Street, Multi-Purpose Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. A quorum was present.

**Members**

Robert Hallenbeck, Chairman  
Robert Caret, Chancellor, University System of Maryland  
Renee Winsky, President & CEO Leadership Maryland and President & Founder, Bay One Group, LLC  
Roger Venezia, Designee of the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce

**Staff, Guests, and Representatives**

Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Barbara Kountz, Deputy Counsel to Maryland Department of Commerce, Assistant Attorney General  
Heather Gramm, Senior Director, Office of Strategic Industries & Entrepreneurship, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Sarah Sheppard, Director, Education and Workforce, Office of Strategic Industries & Entrepreneurship, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Bret Schreiber, Senior Director, Biohealth & Life Sciences, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Jamie Cacciola, Director of Grants, Office of Institutional Advancement, Hood College  
Daehwan Kim, Assistant Professor, Biology, Hood College  
Craig Laufer, Professor of Biology, Hood College  
Elisabeth Koenig, Director of Fiduciary Services, Office of Gift Planning, The Johns Hopkins University  
Jeffrey Mumm, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, The Johns Hopkins University  
Peter McDonnell, Professor of Ophthalmology, The Johns Hopkins University  
Libby Bryce Bell, Senior Director of Development, The Johns Hopkins University  
George Lewis, Professor, Microbiology and Immunology, University of Maryland School of Medicine  
James Kaper, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Mary Pooton, Assistant Dean of Development, University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Ming Lin, Professor, Elizabeth Stevinson Iribe Chair of Computer Science, University of Maryland College Park

Sean Carroll, Balo-Simon Professor, Department of Biology, University of Maryland College Park

Megan Shiflet Carnell, Assistant Dean for Development, University of Maryland College Park  
Tracy Lee, Interim Senior Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, University of Maryland College Park

### **Call Meeting to Order:**

Chairman Robert Hallenbeck called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Chairman Hallenbeck stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear from colleges and universities regarding the research where the Authority has provided matching funds to determine the impact of the program. Chairman Hallenbeck stated that the Authority is gathering data to determine the economic impact of the grant funding, and these presentations are an integral part in that process. He asked the guests from each university to introduce themselves at the time of their presentation, and to allow time for questions and answers.

Maryland Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) Secretary, Kelly Schulz, gave remarks regarding the oversight of the program by Commerce. Secretary Schulz observed that the E-Nnovation Program’s mandated funding is scheduled to sunset in 2021. Continuing the program will require capturing and communicating any success stories that have emerged from the Program to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly.

### **Roll Call: Introduction of Authority Members and Others in Attendance:**

Chairman Hallenbeck asked members of the Authority and staff to introduce themselves.

### **Presentations**

Chairman Hallenbeck asked the colleges and universities to give their presentations and address the impact of their research on the community.

- Hood College – Jamie Cacciola introduced Dr. Daehwan Kim and Dr. Craig Laufer. Dr. Kim gave a presentation on his research in bioenergy and biofuels.

Chairman Hallenbeck asked that colleges and universities not limit their annual report to the Authority to simply research, but also include topics such as outreach activities or the impact on attracting additional donations.

- The Johns Hopkins University (“JHU”) – Elisabeth Koenig introduced Dr. Jeffrey Mumm. Dr. Mumm gave a presentation on his research on the drug discovery process.

Additionally, Dr. Mumm discussed licensing and technology transfer opportunities based on his research.

Ms. Koenig discussed how JHU works with potential donors and how they are matched to certain fields of study, including those that might be candidates for E-Nnovation funding.

Ms. Bell stated that the Program has helped the Wilmer Eye Institute with gift planning to leverage E-Nnovation funds. Ms. Bell added that some faculty members start companies and then seek funds to stimulate research at those companies.

- University of Maryland, Baltimore – Dr. James Kaper introduced Dr. George Lewis. Dr. Lewis gave an overview of vaccine research relating to HIV/AIDS. He stated that MEIF funding has been extremely important to his research, particularly for equipment purchases. Ms. Pooton observed that the MEIF program has been effective at leveraging private donations.
- University of Maryland College Park (“UMD”) – Tracy Lee introduced Dr. Ming Lin. Ms. Lee stated that donors to UMD have responded enthusiastically to the E-Nnovation program, with nine chairs to date supported with matching funds. Dr. Lin’s presentation focused on Virtual Reality and its applications in the fields of graphic design, simulation, medicine, and nanostructures. UMD has experienced explosive growth of its Computer Science department and has seen increases in its national rankings. The result has been a positive impact on recruiting of both faculty and students. Dr. Lin stated that Maryland is the “cyber valley of the future,” and because of this, UMD has seen an increase in industry/academia collaboration, with companies such as. Capital One, Adobe, and initial discussions with Amazon HQ2.
- UMD – Tracy Lee introduced Dr. Sean Carroll. Dr. Carroll discussed his recruitment to UMD. Dr. Carroll’s research focuses on the evolution of morphological traits in animals and the application of that knowledge to biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

## **Discussion**

Chairman Hallenbeck thanked all the institutions and individuals that took time to participate and thank Mr. Venezia for his help in organizing the meeting. Chairman Hallenbeck noted the diversity of approaches, problems, and opportunities in Maryland. The Authority welcomes input and feedback on how to improve the E-Nnovation program.

Chairman Hallenbeck challenged those in attendance to consider how we respond to the challenges and opportunities presented today. How do we become “Cyber Valley?” How do we ensure success with vaccines and biofuels and the economic development opportunities that can link to this research?

Mr. Schreiber observed that while research institutions are collaborating with business, Commerce is trying to foster a physical presence in Maryland for these businesses. Researchers have these relationships with businesses, while Commerce can help take it a step further. Commerce is also available to help bring ideas to the marketplace and works with Maryland’s federal labs on technology transfer. Mr. Schreiber stated that Commerce can be a resource to universities as much as the universities can be a resource to Commerce.

Ms. Winsky noted that MEIFA's success is based on the success of the funded research. The reports the programs submit to Commerce includes the research, but anecdotal evidence of success needs to be included in the reporting.

Dr. Caret remarked that it was great to hear the presentations, rather than just read about the research in a report. Maryland has a good critical mass in some industries, such as IT and cybersecurity, but we need more of a critical mass of companies in the biohealth industry. Colleges and universities help provide the base for the knowledge economy.

Dr. Carroll described his observation of coming to Maryland from the University of Wisconsin and that programs like MEIF show Maryland's commitment to its educational institutions. That is a narrative that not many states have. Maryland can point to its institutions and burgeoning critical mass of academic power and economic power. It is important to be doing things that say something about what Maryland is trying to do with their universities.

Chairman Hallenbeck stressed the importance of Maryland committing to a research effort for the longer term. While the MEIF statute allows for both faculty recruitment and retention, the Authority prefers recruitment.

Dr. Mumm described his experience with entrepreneurship, and the value of a business incubator with equipment to support new business ventures. We need young people to buy into entrepreneurship as an alternative career opportunity.

Chairman Hallenbeck mentioned that he and Ms. Winsky also sit on the board of the Maryland Innovation Initiative, which fosters early stage research and small company research. A particular challenge is teaching graduate students to be entrepreneurial. How can you as researchers help educate and bring on new graduate students to be entrepreneurs?

Dr. Carroll asked about entrepreneurship programs in Maryland. Mr. Schreiber responded that such programs are growing in number with some best practices at JHU and UMD. Chairman Hallenbeck stated it should not be something just for business schools, but we should educate people about being entrepreneurial and look for those people who would be a good fit as an entrepreneur.

Dr. Carroll observed that finding managerial talent is a challenge for small companies. Dr. Caret noted that the Governor's Excel Initiative concluded that the two primary challenges for Maryland are venture capital and C-suite talent.

## **Adjournment**

Chairman Hallenbeck adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.